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LETTER DATED 10 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to draw the attention of the Security Council to the statement of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea entitled "Japan cannot see in 21st century as long as relations with DPRK remain unsettled" issued on the occasion of the fifty-fourth anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese imperialist colonial rule.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) KIM Chang Guk
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Statement issued on 10 August 1999 by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Japan cannot see in 21st century as long as relations with DPRK remain unsettled

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issues the following statement in order to make a clear presentation once again of Japan's 100-year-long history of criminal policy towards Korea before the world progressive peoples and conscience aspiring after justice, independence and peace on the occasion of the 54th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese imperialist colonial rule.

At the threshold of a new century, the Korean people can hardly repress their surging national indignation and astonishment at attempts of Japan to see the present century out without properly repenting of the unprecedented crimes it committed against the Korean people and without dropping the hostile policy towards Korea it has pursued throughout the century.

From ancient times, Korea has been called the land as beautiful as a golden tapestry of three thousand *ri* good to live in. In this land with a history spanning 5,000 years, its people lived in good harmony generation after generation, helping and leading each other forward.

It was not until the start of Japan's history of aggression on Korea that aggression, plunder and bloody killing spree were rampant in this peaceful land, inflicting misfortunes and pains upon the Korean people. The Japanese imperialists, watching for a chance to invade Korea, occupied Korea by huge aggression forces in 1905 and with a view to justifying the occupation, fabricated what they called "pacts" by all descriptions of threat and blackmail and brigandish swindles to deprive Korea of the rights to pursue domestic and foreign policies and enforced a colonial rule on Korea. Consequently, for more than 40 years since then, the Korean people were compelled to obey laws of Japan or die, subject to all sorts of national insult and maltreatment under the Japanese imperialist colonial rule, which were indescribable mental humiliation and sufferings.

During the occupation of Korea, the Japanese imperialists forcibly deprived the Koreans of their spoken and written language and their names, attempted to eradicate even the customs peculiar to them and forced them to abandon the soul of the nation and become "loyal" to the Japanese "Emperor" as "subjects of the Empire."

Throughout the period of the occupation, the Japanese imperialists, like slave traders in the middle ages, turned to the most barbarous way in abducting and drafting more than six million people, which accounted for nearly all of the young and middle-aged Korean people, to satisfy the needs for armed and labor forces for the war in Asia and the pacific. They put them to slave labor, killed

more than one million innocent people and reduced nearly 200,000 Korean women to sex slaves for the Japanese army, bringing an immeasurable human loss to the Korean nation. The Japanese imperialists also plundered the Korean people of several hundred thousand items of national treasures and cultural heritages, a great deal of natural resources and all the products made in Korea. The material damage inflicted upon the Koreans reached astronomical figures.

As is mentioned above, the mental, human and material damage the Japanese imperialists inflicted upon the Koreans during their occupation of Korea was unprecedented in human history in view of its nature, manifestation and scale. Japan, after its defeat, should have reflected on its crimes before the Korean people and made a fresh start.

However, in addition to the crime of causing the division of Korea by colonizing it, it has turned to another crime detrimental to Korea's reunification and development with the backing of the United States, which is directly responsible for the division of Korea. It also has all along driven the relations between the DPRK and Japan into those of the worst confrontation.

Especially, Japan actively involved in the Korean War provoked by the U.S. imperialists by sending tens of thousands of the imperial army remnants and "reserve police forces" to the Korean front, mobilizing huge means of transport to meet the growing demands of the U.S. imperialists for the war, producing and repairing war equipment and offering military installations to them. That was clear evidence of Japan, like the United States, being a criminal state directly responsible for the Korean War.

It is no longer secret to the world that the Japanese imperialists, defeated in World War II, were able to revive and rearm themselves with the "fabulous profits" they siphoned out of the Korean war under the patronage of the U.S..

Even after the war, Japan, adopting as a state policy to follow the U.S. policy of creating "two Koreas" and stifling the DPRK, has left no stone unturned to isolate and stifle our socialist system. Considering the Korean-style socialism a thorn in the flesh, the Japanese reactionaries have been persistent in their politico-military threats and blackmail and economic sanctions against the DPRK. They continue harsh national discrimination and suppression of the Koreans and their descendants who live in Japan as victims of the Japanese imperialist colonial rule.

In a nutshell, the Korea policy pursued by Japan for a hundred years was aimed at exterminating, dividing, alienating, excluding and antagonizing the Korean nation.

Commenting on the Korea policy Japan has pursued throughout the 20th century, the DPRK government reiterates the warning that never to be condoned are the crimes Japan committed by imposing immeasurable misfortunes and pains upon the Korean people for more than 40 years of its occupation of Korea and by bringing heavy politico-economic damage to the DPRK in

pursuance of the hostile policy towards the DPRK for more than half a century, while refusing, till the end of the century, to liquidate the past, an issue that it should have settled after its defeat, and that even if Japan is to expiate its crimes, they are too atrocious to be properly liquidated.

Improvement of bilateral relations means, in essence, Japan's liquidating the crimes against the Korean people in the past and, on this basis, developing new good-neighborly relations in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and in conformity with the requirements of the times.

We showed generosity to Japan that came out to intergovernmental negotiations for the normalization of relationship with the DPRK, riding on the current of the situation at the turn of the century, though belatedly. And in the hope that Japan, a near yet far country, may be a near and close neighbor, we made great efforts to put a period to the history of misfortunes through clear liquidation of the past DPRK-Japan relations from the historic and legal point of view and to establish new relationship with Japan on the principle of reconciliation, good neighborhood, equality, friendship, independence and reciprocity.

Far from repenting of the past crimes, however, Japan persistently pursued the U.S.-toeing policy and the policy hostile towards the DPRK and deliberately brought the DPRK-Japan negotiations, which had been arranged with so much painstaking efforts, to a rupture by raising up such issues as "nuclear suspicion" and "kidnaping" which had nothing to do with the negotiations.

Nearly seven years have passed since the stalled negotiations. Japan still turns its back on negotiations for the liquidation of the past and acts brazen-facedly imposing demands upon the DPRK while trying to create the impression as if the normalization of the bilateral relations is a "present".

The normalization of relations is not one party's favor to the other. Moreover, the DPRK is not badly interested in the improvement of relations with Japan. For 54 years after the war, the DPRK has got along without any help from Japan. It has not budged in face of Japan's sanctions and hostile acts. Historically, Korea has never felt comfortable with Japan being its neighbor, nor has it found the latter helpful. The DPRK will be better off as ever even without improving the relations with Japan.

Japan's refusal to liquidate the past is, in essence, a revelation of the militarist design to repeat the past crimes as well as of the wild ambition for reinvasion to realize the old dream of the "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere."

An assailant, Japan, is obliged to make a sincere apology and compensation to the DPRK both legally and morally for all its past crimes. A victim, the DPRK, has a legitimate right to get compensation from Japan for all its past damage on the publicly recognized principle of international law and in accordance with international usage.

Japan's liquidation of the past on behalf of Korea is not a mere economic matter of whether we get a few pennies or not, but an important political issue related to the Korean nation's defense of its dignity and sovereignty and exercise of its sovereignty and a sensitive military issue of keeping Japan from staging a comeback and providing a guarantee for peace in Asia. At the same time, it is a pressing issue which will judge whether Japan is qualified to become a full-fledged member of the international community or not. It is also an important issue that must be settled for the sake of Japan itself.

This notwithstanding, the Japanese authorities refuse to honestly reflect on the damage done to the Korean people. It is foolish of them to whitewash and distort their blood-stained history of aggression. They are rewriting history textbooks to teach the coming generation a false history and infuse ultra-nationalism and militarism into them so that they may not have an elementary understanding of the crime-woven history nor feel guilty about it. This is also part of the crimes of Japan.

History can be neither denied nor tampered with. The insult a nation suffered from another nation and its pride impaired by the latter can never fade from its memory with the passage of time. Due to Japan's negligence of the work to get rid of the disgrace of a criminal state in the 20th century and its failure to rectify its evil conscience, its crimes have snowballed generation after generation. In the long run, its new generation has to pay the long-standing huge debt plus the debt that the previous generations failed to clear off. Though a generation is replaced by another and a new century arrives at the end of the old one, Japan can never flee from its legal and moral obligation to make a thoroughgoing apology and compensation to the Korean people for all its past crimes.

The world conscience sees moral inferiority of Japan in what Germany and Italy have done to liquidate the fascist crimes they committed against humankind in the past. All the policies pursued by the Japanese authorities invite great apprehension and disgust from the people of Asia and the rest of the world, to say nothing of the Korean people.

Far from drawing a lesson from its bitter defeat in the war to invade the continent, Japan has systematically cultivated the strength to take revenge under the signboard of a "peace-loving state." it has recently rounded off the military, operational, legal and ideological and moral preparations for direct participation in a war of aggression overseas and reached a dangerous phase of practice.

The present Japanese authorities do not bother to conceal their scenario that the first target of their overseas aggression is the DPRK. They are now watching for a chance to stage a comeback to Korea, while fanning up an unprecedented anti-DPRK campaign on the absurd pretext that the launch of satellite "Kwangmyongsong 1," a shining scientific and technological achievement of the DPRK, was a "missile launch." The "threat from North Korea" on the lips of the Japanese reactionaries is a prelude to reinvasion of Korea. Reinvasion of Korea will be the beginning of reinvasion of Asia. The militarists of Japan, an economic power in the world, are thirsty for revenge

to make up for the defeat, coupled with the unchanged design of aggression. It is not hard to guess what disaster the world and humankind will face when they launch overseas expansion, flying the "Hinomaru" and singing "Kimigayo."

Stating that Japan cannot see in the 21st century without any difficulty as long as the present serious state of the relations with the DPRK remain unsettled, the DPRK government solemnly clarifies its principled stand as follows:

First, Japan must stop pursuing the policy of stifling the DPRK. It must reflect on and review the 100 year long policy hostile to Korea and opt for a new policy switch over.

Second, it must make a sincere apology and full compensation to the Korean people for all its past crimes. Standing at the historic crossroads of whether to liquidate the past full of crimes within this century or greet a new century with its past unliquidated, Japan must give deep thought to it and make clear its will and resolution before the conscience of humankind.

Third, if Japan dare turn to a showdown of strength in a bid to find a pretext to realize the wild ambition for reinvasion, we will have no option but to take a corresponding countermeasure. Negotiation is not the only solution to Japan's liquidation of the past. The DPRK will neither wait for the settlement of the issue indefinitely nor remain a passive onlooker to it.

An option on the part of the victim depends on the attitude of the assailant. If Japan opts to open good-neighborly relations through liquidation of the past, the DPRK will welcome it with pleasure. But, if it repeats its crime-woven history and undertakes a reckless provocation, the DPRK will never miss the opportunity of meting out merciless retaliation but make Japan pay a dear price for the blood shed by the nation and give vent to its century-old wrath penetrated to the bone.

At the historic moment when it stands on the threshold of a new century of civilization, Japan must make a correct option with reason.